

THE JOURNEY



TOWARD CITIZENSHIP

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

A FAIR SHOT™

#AFairShot

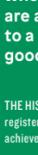
The journey to U.S. citizenship is not always an easy one. Factor in the COVID-19 crisis, which puts the fundamental needs of food, shelter, and health at risk for many aspiring legal immigrants, and it can feel insurmountable.

A FAIR SHOT™ AIMS TO LESSEN THESE BARRIERS AND RENEW A SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE, RESILIENCE, AND HOPE AMONG LEGAL IMMIGRANTS ON THEIR JOURNEY.

A Fair Shot™, in collaboration with The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and the Hispanic Star, support legal immigrant communities and essential workers across the country, providing access to both fundamental and educational resources as individuals strive for a better future for themselves and their families.

This introductory booklet outlines the pathway to becoming a U.S. citizen.

WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU IN YOUR JOURNEY



LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS (LULAC)
lulac.org

LULAC serves as the largest, oldest, and most successful civil rights Latino community service and advocacy organization in the United States. Since our founding, LULAC has established a track record of success by creating a culture of achievement through innovative programs, leadership development, and advocacy.

With over 135,000 members, 1,000 local LULAC councils, 67 technology centers, and 14 educational centers, LULAC offers an unparalleled network of grassroots programs that can help engage with and serve Latinos throughout the United States.

As we face a new reality, A Fair Shot™ and LULAC have joined forces for social good. In supporting immigrant communities and essential workers during this time, we want to extend resources to meet with communities across the country and those seeking better opportunities. A Fair Shot™ aims to empower aspiring legal immigrants to a path toward citizenship to create better opportunities for themselves and their families.



HISPANIC STAR
hispanicstar.org

Help Hispanics, Help America.

The Hispanic Star Initiative represents a national, collective effort to recognize and empower the Hispanic community across the United States, not only as an integral part of American culture but also as a critical contributor to the future prosperity of our country. We firmly believe that circumstances at birth should not determine opportunities in life. We all deserve a fair shot and to be valued and heard regardless of race, religion, nationality, culture, gender, or other constructs. Driven by the conviction that we don't win until we all win, the Hispanic Star Initiative is a nonpartisan, inclusive, and inspirational campaign that unites Hispanics as a single, powerful force for good.

Over 80% of working Hispanic adults are employed in essential services. They have been on the front line keeping the country going. As a result, they have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19. Hispanic Star has launched a nationwide COVID-19 recovery program to provide support to Hispanic families in need. It has joined forces with A Fair Shot™ to ensure relief reaches the many Hispanics who work in the Bar and Restaurant industry. We are all in this together. Join us, and let's get back to a normal life with good times, good food, and good fun.

THE HISPANIC STAR CAMPAIGN - Hispanic Star is an initiative of We Are All Human, a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization devoted to Diversity & Inclusion as a way to achieve equity.

THE CURRENT STATE OF IMMIGRATION

ACCORDING TO A RECENT STUDY¹ RELEASED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY,

as of September 2019, an estimated 13.6 million legal permanent residents (LPRs) were living in the United States. Of the 13.6 million, an estimated 9.2 million were eligible to naturalize.

¹Population Estimates September 2019

WHY SHOULD I CONSIDER BECOMING A U.S. CITIZEN?

VOTE

Only citizens can vote in federal elections. Most states also restrict the right to vote in most elections to U.S. citizens.

KEEP YOUR RESIDENCY

A U.S. citizen's right to remain in the United States cannot be taken away.

BRING FAMILY MEMBERS TO THE U.S.

U.S. citizens generally get priority when petitioning to bring family members² permanently to this country.

SERVE ON A JURY

Only U.S. citizens can serve on a federal jury. Most states also restrict jury service to U.S. citizens. Serving on a jury is an important responsibility for U.S. citizens.

TRAVEL WITH A U.S. PASSPORT

A U.S. passport enables you to get assistance from the U.S. government when overseas, if necessary.

OBTAIN CITIZENSHIP FOR CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

In most cases, a child born abroad to a U.S. citizen³ is automatically a U.S. citizen if requirements are met:

- Parents are legally married to each other at the time of the person's conception or birth or within 300 days of the termination of the marriage by death or divorce, and
- Both parents are the legal parents of the child under local law at the time and place of birth

In all cases, the parent who is a U.S. citizen must be the genetic or the gestational parent and the legal parent of the child under local law at the time and place of the child's birth to transmit U.S. citizenship to the child.

APPLY FOR FEDERAL JOBS

Certain jobs with government agencies require U.S. citizenship.

BECOME AN ELECTED OFFICIAL

Only citizens can run for federal office (U.S. Senate or House of Representatives) and for most state and local offices.

BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Many financial aid grants, including college scholarships and funds given by the government for specific purposes, are available only to U.S. citizens.

OBTAIN GOVERNMENT BENEFITS

Some government benefits are available only to U.S. citizens.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Many federal, state, and local government jobs, as well as certain scholarships for higher education, require U.S. citizenship.

¹Should I Consider U.S. Citizenship?

²Family of U.S. Citizens

³I am the Child of a U.S. Citizen

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES ACQUIRED WITH U.S. CITIZENSHIP⁵

RIGHTS:

- Freedom to express yourself.
- Freedom to worship as you wish.
- Right to a prompt, fair trial by jury.
- Right to vote in elections for public officials.
- Right to apply for federal employment requiring U.S. citizenship.
- Right to run for elected office.
- Freedom to pursue "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Pay income and other taxes honestly, and on time, to federal, state, and local authorities.
- Respect and obey federal, state, and local laws.
- Serve on a jury when called upon.
- Defend the country if the need should arise.
- Support and defend the Constitution.
- Stay informed of the issues affecting your community.
- Participate in the democratic process.
- Respect the rights, beliefs, and opinions of others.
- Participate in your local community.

⁵U.S. Citizens Rights and Responsibilities

REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME A UNITED STATES CITIZEN

1 Must be 18 years of age or older at the time of completing the Application for Naturalization, Form N-400.¹

2 Be a lawfully admitted permanent resident of the United States.

3 At the time of filing, the person must have been a permanent resident of the U.S. for a minimum of 5 years. If applying as a permanent resident and married to a U.S. citizen, the minimum requirement is 3 years.

4 Have demonstrated physical and continuous permanent residence in the United States.

5 Have lived within the state or United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) District for at least 3 months before filing.

6 Have demonstrated good moral character.

7 Demonstrate an attachment to the principles and ideals of the U.S. Constitution.

8 Demonstrate the ability to read, write, speak, and understand basic English.

9 Demonstrate a basic knowledge of U.S. history, government, and civic principles.

10 Take an oath of Allegiance to the United States.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT LULAC.ORG/AFAIRSHOT

¹Instructions for filing Form N-400

THE FIRST STEP

To become a United States citizen from a legal permanent resident, one must submit Form N-400.

To be eligible to apply, one must have been a legal permanent resident (must have a Green Card) for a minimum of 5 years OR a minimum of 3 years if married to a U.S. citizen (plus all the eligibility requirements). Form N-400 can be submitted as early as 90 days before the 5-year (or 3-year) anniversary of the applicant's Legal Permanent Residency.

Currently, it takes roughly 8 months to process² the Application for Naturalization (Form N-400), though additional wait time is necessary to complete the rest of the naturalization process.

In 2018, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) changed its policy. Applications must now be submitted with minimal to no errors for a shorter wait period and to prevent the resubmission of Form N-400.

Once everything is submitted correctly, USCIS will call the applicant in for fingerprinting. USCIS may request additional supporting documents to be mailed in.

After this process, the applicant will be given an appointment for their citizenship interview and exam. During this appointment, they will be interviewed about their background and given an English and civics verbal exam.

²How long does it take to get U.S. citizenship after applying?

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need a lawyer to apply for U.S. citizenship? No. Form N-400 can be submitted online, but if you would like to hire a lawyer to guide your application through the process, you are more than welcome to do so.

What if I am married to a U.S. citizen? If you are married to a U.S. citizen, you must have been a permanent resident of the United States for a minimum of 3 years.

Are the questions that USCIS will ask available? Yes. They can be found on the USCIS website (uscis.gov) in various languages for your understanding.

How many questions will I be asked? Out of the 100 questions, you will be asked 10 questions. To pass the exam portion of this section, you will need to answer 6 questions correctly.

Is it mandatory to give the interview in English? Certain applicants, because of age and time as a lawful permanent resident, are exempt from the English requirements for naturalization and may take the civics test in the language of their choice.

Do I need to bring all my legal documents to the interview? All legal documents need to be with you at the time of your interview. This includes but is not limited to, marriage and birth certificates and legally appropriate forms of identification.

If I fail a portion of the naturalization test, when will I be retested? Unless you are eligible for an exception, you will be given two opportunities to meet the English and civics requirements. If you fail any portion of these requirements, you will be retested during a new interview on the portion of the test that you failed (English or civics) between 60 and 90 days from the date of your initial interview.

How many times can I apply for U.S. citizenship? There is no limit on how many times you can apply.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT LULAC.ORG

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES COMING WINTER 2020/2021

Source: Department of Homeland Security

HELPFUL LINKS

A FAIR SHOT™

[LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS \(LULAC\)](http://LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS (LULAC))

THE HISPANIC STAR CAMPAIGN

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILING FORM N-400

SHOULD I CONSIDER U.S. CITIZENSHIP?

